

STEP BY STEP

B1 OBJECT PRONOUNS



Direct Objects

Objeto Indirectos

A direct object is a noun, whether person or thing, that someone or something acts upon. In the simplest sentences, the direct object directly follows the verb, so it's very easy to see the effect that the verb has on the noun.

Tengo un perrito. I have a puppy.

Conoce a Maria.

He/she knows Maria.

The direct object is the person or thing that receives the action of the verb in a sentence. To find the direct object in a sentence, ask Who? or What?

Tengo un perrito. I have a puppy.

Lo tengo.

I have it.

What do I have? A puppy.

Conoce a Maria.

He knows Maria.

La conoce.

He knows her.

Who does he know? Maria.

Indirect Objects

Objetos indirectos

An indirect object is a person that someone or something does something to indirectly. In the simplest sentences, the indirect object directly follows a verb + preposition, so it's very easy to see the effect that the verb has on that person.

Por ejemplo...

Da unas flores a su amiga. He's giving flowers to his friend.

Hablo a José y a Ana. I'm talking to José and Ana.

The indirect object is the person that receives the action of the verb in a sentence. To find the indirect object, ask "To whom?"

Da unas flores a su amiga. He's giving flowers to his friend.

Le da unas flores. He's giving her flowers.

To whom is he giving flowers? – to his friend → her.

Hablo a José y a Ana. I'm talking to José and Ana.

Les hablo. I'm talking to them.

PRONOMBRES DE OBJETO DIRECTO E INDIRECTO/DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Los pronombres de objeto directo e indirecto (Object pronouns -direct and indirect object pronouns) substitute the noun. In English these are: 'me', 'him', 'her' and so on. For example, in the sentence 'Give Sam the pen,' Sam is a noun, which can be changed to 'Give her the pen.' In Spanish the pronoun either comes before the verb as a separate word or after joined with the verb, when are used with affirmative imperative, an infinitive or a gerund. For example:

Julio le da la pluma (he is giving her the pen).

Voy a darle la pluma (I am going to give her the pen).

'Dale la pluma' (give her the pen).

Estoy dándole la pluma (I am giving her the pen).

Object pronouns in Spanish

Pronombres Personales	Objeto Directo	Objeto Indirecto
Yo	Me	Me
Tú	Te	te
Èl/ella	lo/la	le
Nosotros	Nos	nos
Vosotros	Os	os
Ellas/ellas/ustedes	Los/las	les

How direct and indirect objects work

The majority of sentences have two objects. The direct object is the noun or pronoun on the receiving end of the action for example, 'Pass me the pen' – it is the pen here that is receiving the action (by being passed around). The indirect object is the person or entity for whom you (subject) are doing the action.

In the above sentence the indirect object is 'me'. Another way to say this would be 'Pass the pen for me'. In English indirect objects are often indicated with the prepositions 'for' or 'to.' For example, '**Explain the problem to us**' – the problem is

the direct object while 'us' is the indirect object. With pronouns this is 'Explain it to us.' In the Spanish equivalent of this sentence the direct object is signified with 'lo' and the indirect with 'nos.' So it would be '**explícanoslo**' – The indirect object goes first followed by the direct (or in other words 'lo' and 'la' go at the end). Explain to him the problem would be 'Explicá**le** (a él, a ella)el problema.'

The LE, LO, LA rule

If I were to say in Spanish (*Give them to them*) I would end up with 'Dá**les**las.'— These are far too many 'l' words for comfort. To avoid the Repetition of all those 'l' sounds '**le**' and '**les**' change to '**se**' when paired with '**lo**,' '**la**,' '**los**' or '**las**.' So the above sentence would be 'Dá**selas**.' More examples 'Explicá**selo**' (*explain it to her*). 'Prestá**selo**' (*lend him/them it*).

NOW MORE RULES ABOUT WHERE TO PLACE THE OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

when an indirect object and a direct object are found in the same sentence, the order will be next:

the order of pronouns is: COI+COD+VERBO. with conjugated verbs, pronouns are always placed before the verb and these are separately.

□ ¿Has visto mi bicicleta nueva? **Me la** (la bicicleta) han regalado por mi cumpleaños.

□ ¡préstame tu libro! Lo siento **se (a pepe) lo (el libro)** presté a pepe.

with the infinitive, the gerund and the affirmative form of the imperative, the pronouns are placed after the verb and form a single word.

But if the imperative sentence is negative, then the COI and COD pronouns must go before the verb.

□ Cuando hay un problema lo mejor es discutir**lo (el problema)**

□ Los problemas, evitá**ndolos** no se solucionan.

□ Esas llaves son mías ¡dám**elas**!

□ Esa pelota es mía, ¡ No **la** agarres!

with periphrasis and with structures such as: tener/poder/querer/ir a + infinitivo, pronouns can go before the conjugate verb or behind the infinitive, but never between them.

□ Tengo que contarte algo.

□ te tengo que contar algo.

□ tengo que te contar algo.

□ Quiero regalarle algo a tu madre

□ Le quiero regalar algo a tu madre

□ Quiero le regalar algo a tu madre

Nota. here we have to name the indirect object so that there is no confusion with

the

second formal singular person usted.

Ese vestido no me gusta

□ **Lo** voy a cambiar

□ Voy a cambiarlo